



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
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## MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

**Charleston, West Virginia – Commercial red meat production** during May 2016 totaled 400,000 pounds. This was up 17 percent from May 2015. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** totaled 504,000 pounds live weight, up 25 percent from May 2015. Cattle slaughter totaled 400 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 44 pounds from the previous year, at 1,125 pounds.

**Commercial calf slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 164,000 pounds live weight, up 12 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight was up 28 pounds from the previous year, at 299 pounds.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter** was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

**United States – Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.00 billion pounds in May, up 5 percent from the 3.81 billion pounds produced in May 2015.

**Beef production**, at 2.03 billion pounds, was 5 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.51 million head, up 6 percent from May 2015. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 1,333 pounds.

**Veal production** totaled 6.0 million pounds, 9 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 35,500 head, up 7 percent from May 2015. The average live weight was down 49 pounds from last year, at 286 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.95 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.18 million head, up 5 percent from May 2015. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 283 pounds.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 13.0 million pounds, was up 9 percent from May 2015. Sheep slaughter totaled 185,300 head, 9 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 1 pound from May a year ago.

**January to May 2016 commercial red meat production** was 20.2 billion pounds, up 3 percent from 2015. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 1 percent.

**May 2015** contained 21 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

**May 2016** contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

*Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.*